

DUBLIN/DARLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

June 15, 2011

Wilson Community Center

Members Present: Rich Norling, Chair
Jane Howe, Secretary
Russell Kovach
Jim Murphy
Stephen Smith
Donald Thomas
Alan Thompson
Shirley Thompson

Guests: Patricia Gonzalez
Lilma Huntley
John Jones
Bob Riley
John Sauers
Sgt. Kevin Thomas
Capt. Keith Warner

Rich Norling called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Introductions were made around the room.

Review of Minutes: Shirley Thompson made a motion to approve the May 18, 2011 minutes. Donald Thomas seconded. Passed.

Government Updates

Sheriff's Representative: Sgt. Kevin Thomas reported on crime in Sectors 100, 90 and 60 for the month of May.

Total calls for Harford County – 13,164 in 5/2011 down from 13,322 in 5/2010

			Dayshift 8am-4pm	Evening 4pm-12am	Midnight 12am-8am
Sector 100	May 2011	822	26%	31%	43%
	May 2010	792			
Sector 90	May 2011	598	28%	35%	37%
	May 2010	682			
Sector 60	May 2011	307	54%	33%	13%
	May 2010	323			

Sector 100 - There were 2 assaults, 4 motor vehicle thefts and 11 thefts.

Sector 90 – There were 9 assaults, 1 burglary, 1 motor vehicle theft, 1 robbery and 5 thefts.

Sector 60 – There was 1 assault, 2 burglaries, 2 motor vehicle thefts and 2 thefts.

Sgt. Kevin Thomas noted that the May statistics represent 6% of Harford's total crime in Sector 100, 5% in Sector 90 and 2% in Sector 60. Capt. Keith Warner gave a brief report on the investigation into a potential local scam involving free gasoline. He said the investigation is still ongoing.

Once again, a discussion about noise pollution at the Harley Davidson store centered around the difference between loud music and parties vs. motorcycle engine noise and use of digital decibel level sound meters. The Sheriff's Office now has two certified officers, one in the northern precinct and one in the southern precinct, to respond to complaints. A meter is housed at each location and the equipment is expensive. The noise level must be monitored from the property owner's location. Fines can be up to \$10,000 through MDE. Harford County offenses are \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for the second offense. The rules are different for different vehicles and none of the law applies to motor vehicles actually on the road. A big complaint about the Darlington Harley Davidson store is use of the "dyno" machine. A sound proof booth was promised, but may not be built yet. Sgt. Thomas urged local people to call the Sheriff's Office when there is a need to measure the decibel level of any disruptive noise.

County Executive's Representative: Patricia Gonzalez gave an update on newly imposed restrictions on use of Deer Creek by swimmers, tubers, boaters and kayakers. There is a 100 yard section of Deer Creek in Rock State Park that has been closed for these purposes. She also gave an update on the status of the "black box" County office building in Bel Air. She doubts anyone will be moving back in. Construction has been pushed back on building the fields at the location next to the High's store on Route 1. Discussion followed about use of the field. There was some confusion about priority usage of Parks and Rec owned public parks. Rich Norling pointed out that a public hearing on the site plan was

held over a year ago. Patty said, according to Arden McClune, Director of Harford County Parks and Rec, local Rec Councils have priority use of Harford County owned property.

Feature Presentation: A special short movie produced by the EOC and the Peach Bottom Nuclear facility of Exelon Corporation was shown regarding emergency preparedness for those living in a 10 mile radius of the power plant. Please go to www.harfordpublicsafety.org to sign up for emergency contact information. It is recommended that people living in the area have a current supply of KI (potassium iodide) pills on hand in case of an emergency. The pills can be obtained from the Health Department and have a relatively long shelf life. If there are residents with special needs within your household, you need to contact Harford County government www.harfordcounty.md.gov/Health/Download/783.pdf. Contact the Community Policing Office here in Darlington at 410-638-3713 or Rick Ayers, Deputy Manager/ Emergency Manager, 410-638-4900, for more information.

Old Business:

New members - There are still openings on the Council. Application forms are on the Harford County website – or – contact Patty Gonzalez at pwgonzalez@harfordcountymd.gov.

Future Guests – There will be no meeting in July. The August meeting will be held at the EOC located at 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill, 7pm. A request was made to see the “Command Bus” while at EOC. The group expressed interest in scheduling future meetings at the Conowingo Visitor Center. Jane Howe will check into it.

New Business:

Toll Increase on Hatem Bridge – Several attendees brought up the issue of proposed new toll increases on the Hatem Bridge. In the lengthy discussion that followed, it was made clear that the MTA, a separate agency apart from Governor O’Malley, is the legal entity making the proposal. The Secretary of Transportation chairs the Board, but the rest of the board members are citizens appointed to 5 year terms. The board makes all the decisions. They don’t need legislature or Governor approval. Aside from increasing the toll for commuters between Harford and Cecil counties, the concern is that more traffic, especially truck traffic, will dramatically increase through Darlington. Some have observed that speed limits are neither followed nor enforced. Sgt. Thomas commented that Harford County’s two smart trailers have been paid for numerous times over because of repairs due to vandalism. He can put in a request for radar. Speeding is the number one community complaint. There are 16 deputies working in the sector on an average day. He will talk to the Commander at the State Police Barracks in Bel Air. Two public hearings are scheduled in June – June 17 in Perryville and June 27 in Havre de Grace. Concerned citizens are urged to attend and testify. A suggestion was made to invite SHA to give a presentation at a future DDCC meeting. Of particular interest are recent traffic counts on Route 161.

Good of the Council:

- ~ The Darlington Independence Day Parade and Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 25.
- ~ 500 additional registered voters are needed to secure additional early voting locations in Harford County.
- ~ There will be an open house at Conowingo Pool, tomorrow, June 16 from 4-7pm.
- ~ Regarding use of Parks and Rec facilities, a request was made to meet with the County Executive as a Community Council. Chair Rich Norling pointed out that this was a personal, not a DDCC request and reminded members that the Council makes decisions by majority vote; if anyone were to make a motion the Council would vote on it. No motion was made.

Adjournment: Alan Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Stephen Smith seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2011, 7PM at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center), 220 Ady Road, Forest Hill.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Howe